

TWO NEW RECORDS FOR *DASYLECHIA ATROX* (WILLISTON) (DIPTERA: ASILIDAE), WITH A REVIEW OF ALL PREVIOUS RECORDS¹

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ABSTRACT: The first new record for *Dasylechia atrox* (Williston) is Champaign Co., Illinois. The specimen was captured in a metal malaise trap located at the edge of a deciduous forest. A second new record is Washtenaw Co., Michigan. This specimen has a honey bee, *Apis mellifera* L., as prey. Two additional captures and the literature referring to all previous records are reviewed.

A female of the rare asilid, *Dasylechia atrox* (Williston), was collected on 26 Jul. 1973 in Champaign Co., Illinois. It was found in Trelease Woods on the University of Illinois campus at Urbana by Lloyd R. Davis, Jr. This record extends the range of *D. atrox* into Illinois; is the first record from a malaise trap; and may be the only specimen collected in the last 20 years. The asilid was found dead within a cyanide killing jar attached to the malaise trap. The metal trap, designed to collect mosquitoes, was checked daily between 7 and 9 AM. The trap was situated in the ecotone between a relict of the eastern deciduous forest and a reconstructed prairie. The forest contained mainly red oak (*Quercus rubra* L.) and pawpaw (*Asimina triloba* (L.) Dunal); the prairie, grass of similar height to the trap. Stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica* L.) abounded in the ecotone. The trap was operated for the entire summer but only one *D. atrox* was collected. This specimen is deposited in the author's personal collection.

The collection at the United States National Museum contains three specimens. The first specimen was collected in Ann Arbor, Washtenaw Co., Michigan by F.M. Gaige. The only other information on the label is "In back of the museum." The specimen has a honey bee, *Apis mellifera* L., as prey. This is a new county record for the asilid. The second specimen was collected in Michigan on 13 Aug. 1888. The third was collected in Ohio by S.W. Bromley. The second and third specimens are not state records, but have not been recorded in the literature.

Published records for only 15 specimens exist. Williston (1883) described the asilid from a Pennsylvania specimen collected by S. Auxer. A second specimen was collected at Lansing, Michigan by J.M. Aldrich (Aldrich, 1905). It was collected on 27 Aug. 1888 and once had a small beetle as prey, but this has been lost (Baker and Fischer, 1975). The third specimen was collected in New Brunswick, Middlesex Co., New Jersey on 28 Aug. by John B. Smith (Smith, 1910). Smith characterizes the collecting site as "Piedmont Plain.

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At the edge of the red shale, which dips below the sand and clay a little to the south." The fourth specimen was collected at Ithaca, New York in Aug. by J.A. Hine (Leonard, 1928). The fifth and sixth specimens were collected in Ohio in 1933 (Bromley, 1936). They were collected on 29 Aug. by C.F. Walker as they circled him while in an open pasture, with oak and red maple as the dominant trees on gravelly, morainic soil (Baker and Fischer, 1975). The seventh specimen was collected in Columbus, Ohio. It was found on The Ohio State University campus, on the steps of the Botany and Zoology Building on 24 Jul. 1934 by C. Vennard (Bromley, 1936). The eighth specimen is in the James S. Hine Collection at the Ohio State Museum and has no data (Bromley, 1936). The ninth specimen is in the Charles Dury Collection at The Ohio State University, was presumably collected in Ohio, and has a *Melissodes bimaculata* (Jepeletier) (Apidae) as prey. An attached note reads "In open grove, resting on exposed branch, in rather low ground" (Baker and Fischer, 1975). The tenth specimen was collected in Columbus, Ohio, flying around inside a class room in the Botany and Zoology Building on The Ohio State University campus. R.W. Strandtmann collected it on 5 Jul. 1942 (Bromley, 1947). The eleventh specimen was discovered in 1948 in a student collection, by Dr. J.N. Knull, curator of The Ohio State University Insect Collection. The specimen had no label (Bromley, 1950). The twelfth specimen was collected in Sharon, Ohio on 7 Jun. 1949 by a student (Bromley, 1950). The thirteenth specimen was collected by Frank M. Hull at Iowa State College. It was trapped on the window of a basement laboratory (Hull, 1962). One of the remaining two records is from Utah; one, from Kansas (Bromley, 1936).

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